

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

In re _____)
)
) Bankruptcy Case No.
)
)
)
 _____ Debtor(s).)

NOTICE TO DEBTOR CONCERNING BANKRUPTCY PETITION PREPARERS

Bankruptcy petition preparers are non-attorneys who are not authorized to practice law or give legal advice.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Court has issued the attached *Bankruptcy Petition Preparer Guidelines* governing the work performed and fees charged by bankruptcy petition preparers in Eastern District of California cases.

Under the *Guidelines*, a bankruptcy petition preparer must give the debtor a copy of this notice before taking any money or property from the debtor or on behalf of the debtor for payment and before preparing any papers for filing in the bankruptcy court. The debtor and the bankruptcy petition preparer must sign a copy of this Notice in the spaces provided below. A copy must be furnished to the debtor by the bankruptcy petition preparer, and the original plus four copies must be filed with the Bankruptcy Court.

California law prohibits any non-attorney from rendering legal advice. Legal advice includes, but is not limited to, advice concerning the following:

- , Whether the debtor should file bankruptcy and the chapter under which the petition should be filed;
- , Whether debts will be eliminated, or "discharged," in a bankruptcy case;
- , Whether the debtor will be able to keep their home after filing a bankruptcy case;
- , The tax consequences of filing a bankruptcy case;
- , Whether the debtor should promise to repay, or "reaffirm," a debt; and
- , The exemptions available in bankruptcy, and what property can be claimed as exempt.

Unless approved by the court, a bankruptcy petition preparer may not charge the debtor more than \$125 for preparing a bankruptcy petition, including expenses (such as photocopies, postage, telephone charges, and courier services). This fee does not include the petition filing fee. The filing fee must be paid directly to the Clerk of Court by the debtor.

The attached *Guidelines* contain additional restrictions. The debtor shall read the *Guidelines* in order to know what the Court requires of bankruptcy petition preparers.

Debtors with questions concerning bankruptcy petition preparers or who believe that the *Guidelines* have been violated, should contact the appropriate Office of the U.S. Trustee (Sacramento: (916) 930-2100; Fresno/Modesto: (559) 498-7400).

FOR THE COURT
RICHARD G. HELTZEL, CLERK
U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT

DEBTOR'S CERTIFICATION

I, _____, and _____,
the debtor(s) in the above-captioned case, have read and understand the foregoing information and attached *Guidelines*.

Dated: _____

(Debtor's Signature)

Dated: _____

(Joint Debtor's Signature)

BANKRUPTCY PETITION PREPARER'S CERTIFICATION

I, _____, hereby certify under penalty of perjury that I am the bankruptcy petition preparer who has assisted the debtor(s) in filing the above-captioned case. I have not charged fees in excess of the amount allowed in Guideline 2, nor have I advised the debtor concerning any of the matters referred to in Guideline 1.

Dated: _____

(Bankruptcy Petition Preparer's Signature)

(Preparer's Social Security/Tax I.D. No.)

(Preparer's Printed or Typed Name)

(Preparer's Address)